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Nigeria

End of Purge Announced

The military government announced over the weekend that its purge of the armed forces and civil service is now over. The announcement, which exhorted all concerned to settle down and resume activities, clearly came in response to signs of growing discontent over the purge among junior and middle grade officers in the armed forces and some senior officers in the government.

The decision to end the purge reportedly was made at a recent meeting of the ruling 22-man Supreme Military Council at which army chief of staff Brigadier Danjuma--the principal figure in charge of the military purge--declared that it had now gone too far and was becoming counter-productive. Last Saturday, the regime announced that a total of 244 officers--including a state military governor--had been dismissed or retired as a result of the military purge that began last month. In a three-month-long purge of the civil service, more than 9,000 civil servants and university officials were removed. The announcement ending the purge made no reference to the regime's previously stated plan to demobilize an unspecified number of servicemen, including ex-soldiers recalled to duty during the civil war.

Disagreement among some members of the government over the way the purge was conducted reportedly led them to start a whispering campaign charging that Head of State Brigadier Muhammed, army chief of staff Brigadier Danjuma, and commissioner of external affairs Colonel Garba were monopolizing decision-making at the expense of the other members of the supposedly collegial ruling council. It remains unclear, however, whether the council members are seriously divided over the issue of broader participation in decision making. Apparently the dominant

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council members do not believe that they are in danger of being forcibly challenged, and they seem to feel that they retain key support in the armed forces. Nonetheless, the regime's leaders are planning to try to mollify dissatisfied members of the government by giving them greater responsibilities.

Brigadier Obassanjo--the government's nominal number two man by virtue of his position as chief of staff at supreme headquarters--may be on his way out. [REDACTED] Obassanjo may be guilty of corrupt dealings dating from the Gowon regime. The current government may decide to remove him in order to protect the anti-corruption image it has fostered since taking power last July. (SECRET NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

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Somalia-French Territory of the Afars and Issas

Siad Weighing Military Takeover of FTAI

Although he is apparently being restrained by the Soviet Union, President Siad is still considering the use of military force to bring the French Territory of the Afars and Issas (FTAI) under Somalia's control.

Siad has begun to focus his attention on the FTAI amid indications that Paris is considering granting independence to the territory. Units of the Somali armed forces last week carried out a combined land, sea and air exercise--including the use of Soviet-piloted MIGs--that was designed to simulate operations in the FTAI. The exercise was also intended to show Somalia's neighbors that it has military muscle and enjoys Soviet support.

Siad has publicly stated--most recently to a visiting French journalist--that he would accept an independent FTAI. The Somali leader, however, has made it plain that he would not accept an independent FTAI government that was pro-Ethiopian or was led by the chairman of the FTAI council of ministers, Ali Aref, who is considered to be anti-Somali. It is likely that an independent FTAI government, at least in its early stages, would be led by Aref. Siad, who views the FTAI as part of greater Somalia, probably sees annexation of the FTAI as necessary in order to prevent Aref from taking over.

[REDACTED] 25X6

Soviet advisers in Somalia have bluntly warned Siad not to take any initiatives against the FTAI until its independence is proclaimed. They have advised him that once that occurs, he can press the Issas, who are a Somali tribe, to call for Somalia's intervention on the ground that the Issas must be protected from their traditional enemies, the Afars and Ali Aref. [REDACTED] 25X6

[REDACTED] the Soviets have no intention of allowing Siad to take independent action against any of his neighbors. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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